

Food and Agriculture Organization helps improve the long-term sustainability of providing good nutrition in developing countries. Efforts of the World Health Organization and UNICEF have drastically improved vaccination rates for preventable diseases in children. International conventions and programs undertaken by United Nations agencies have helped to strengthen the rights of women, refugees, and victims of human rights abuses, and 10 United Nations agencies are helping to treat and prevent the AIDS epidemic in 130 countries.

I congratulate the United Nations on the anniversary of its 60th year, and encourage the United States and Congress to further their support for a strong and effective United Nations.

HONORING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ABC-CLIO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor 50 years of reference publishing and involvement with local community schools and libraries by the Santa Barbara publisher, ABC-CLIO. ABC-CLIO is a privately held company founded by the Boehm family and is now in its second generation of ownership. The company's corporate headquarters is located in Santa Barbara, California, with additional offices in Denver, Colorado, and Oxford, England.

Committed to serving the history profession and its teachers, as well as students and scholars of history, ABC-CLIO annually publishes approximately 80 encyclopedias, guides, and handbooks. Since 1991, this acclaimed reference book-line has won over 60 best-reference awards from the American Library Association and Library Journal.

The best-known publications by ABC-CLIO are the abstracting and indexing services, Historical Abstracts and America: History and Life, which together represent the largest bibliographic history database in the world. Its award-winning social studies databases reach students in thousands of schools nationally.

I commend Eric H. Boehm, Inge P. Boehm, Fritz Fellner, and John A.S. Grenville for founding Historical Abstracts 50 years ago. This pioneering publication connects the international community of historians, making writings of the international history community known and accessible to historians and history students worldwide.

ABC-CLIO is also committed to serving our local community by actively participating in Partners in Education, United Way, and numerous other local programs. ABC-CLIO and CEO Ron Boehm have supported the nationally recognized Computers for Families, which is the flagship program for Partners in Education, since its inception eight years ago.

I commend ABC-CLIO on its 50th Anniversary and recognize them for the important role they play in our community and our world by ensuring that historical scholarship is accessible to historians and students across the globe.

A TRIBUTE TO THE VISITING
NURSE ASSOCIATION OF HOLYOKE, MA

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Visiting Nurse Association, Inc for 100 years of service and care to the community of Holyoke, MA. Officially organized on November 28, 1905 at the Second Baptist Church of Holyoke, the District Nurse Association, as it was then known, began raising money to bring nursing to residents who were unable to access healthcare because of their humble origins.

In 1918, the association became incorporated and eventually, under the first supervisor, Emma Schenker, changed the name and became the Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association, Inc.

In the early years this community-based nursing service evolved under the guidance of the National League for Nursing as a charter member. It established scholarships to promote the availability of nurses and found funding to continue the level of care needed for the city of Holyoke's blue collar workers and their families.

By 1956, 51 percent of the Holyoke Visiting Nurses funding came from the United Way, then known as the Holyoke Community Chest. In 1965 the agency became certified by Medicare and Medicaid and later purchased property for a permanent residence, both of which further stabilized their presence in the community of Holyoke.

The Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association went on to receive accreditation from the National League of Nursing in 1979. In 1984 they diversified into three affiliated subsidiaries so as to better serve their clients, and in 1990 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts licensed and certified Hospice Life Care specializing in caring for a patient's final stages of life.

During the early 1990's the VNA, with growth of 20 percent, was given official accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. Later in the same decade, because of service expansion to other geographic areas in the region, the VNA experienced unprecedented growth for a total of 211,334 visits and the serving of 2,912 patients by 400 employees in 1 year.

With the beginning of the new millennium, budget cuts from Medicaid and Medicare caused the VNA to reorganize, reduce workforce and office space, and to freeze wages in order to survive. Then in October of 2000 the Medicare Prospective Payment System changed the reimbursement environment and relieved the financial constraints on the agency.

Presently with advances in technology and the ability to monitor patients 7 days a week, the VNA is able to benchmark against State and national norms for quality of care and patient/customer satisfaction. In 2004 the agency received the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce Pacesetter Award for Non-Profit Operational Excellence.

In conclusion, the VNA for the past 100 years has maintained the primary theme of affordable patient care by making 2 million visits

to over 30,000 patients. I am proud to recognize the Holyoke Visiting Nurse Association for their dedication and commitment to the care of the residents of this region.

PROTECTION OF LAWFUL
COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of H.R. 800, the virtually identical House version of this legislation, I rise today to clear up any questions that might arise when trying to understand the intent of S. 397 and what its enactment would accomplish. The Protection of Lawful Coercion in Arms Act will eliminate predatory lawsuits that would otherwise cripple an entire industry.

First, let me make two points about what the bill will not do. Nothing in the bill is intended to allow "leap-frogging" over the gun dealer to the manufacturer. The negligent entrustment provision applies specifically to the situation where a dealer knows or reasonably should know that a dangerous person is purchasing a firearm. When the manufacturer has done nothing but sell a legal, non-defective product according to the law, the negligent entrustment provision would not allow a plaintiff to pass of the gun dealer to get to the deeper pockets of the distributor or manufacturer.

The amendment in the Senate offered by Senators FRIST and CRAIG regarding "administrative proceedings" removed any confusion or misinformed rhetoric regarding the "administrative proceedings" section. This legislation will have no effect on the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms or any administrative agency to revoke licenses or otherwise engage in administrative proceedings to punish bad acting manufacturers, distributors, or dealers, or otherwise enforce the laws and regulations that apply to them. While I do not think the amendment was necessary because neither my bill nor S. 397 as introduced by Senator CRAIG did so, now there can be no question. ATF is authorized to begin enforcement proceedings when a violation of our Nation's Federal gun laws has occurred.

I want the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to clearly reflect some specific examples of the type of predatory lawsuits this bill will immediately stop. The bill was drafted to require courts where these cases are pending or filed to dismiss them on their own motions, what the lawyers call *sua sponte*. One of the primary purposes of this legislation is to not force defendants to incur the additional costs and delay of filing motions and arguing, and certainly not to go through costly trials and appeals of cases that the bill requires be dismissed forthwith. The predatory lawsuits that this bill will stop are an abuse of courts and law-abiding businesses and individuals.

A clear cut example is the case of the City of New York v. Beretta USA Corp. et al, currently set for trial on November 27 in Federal court in Brooklyn, NY. The plaintiff has asserted that industry members have created a "public nuisance." The lawful sale of a highly regulated product later misused by criminals is not a public nuisance, and has never been